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literature, and in any early Christian literature based on Jewish tradition, legend would probably be very largely based on plays upon words, on interchange of similar letters, and on consequent confusions, corruptions, and conflations, resulting in amplifications of the Original to an extent unparalleled in Western literature." All this is true, but a good deal of legend of this class has not arisen from the text, but has been adopted from other sources and then more or less ingeniously wedded to the text. A large part of the series of Abraham and Isaac legends, for instance, are of heathen and Islamic origin; then the Jewish homilist tacked them somehow on to the text of Genesis. No doubt Dr. Abbott's canon is true within a very extended range, especially where earlier haggadic expansions are concerned, but it would not be safe to apply the canon too consistently.

I am parting with Dr. Abbott's book after giving a very inadequate account of the wealth and excellence of its contents. Page after page scintillates with brilliant points. It is a book to read and re-read; it is a well to dip into again and again with sure hope of finding a pure and refreshing stream of information, guidance, and inspiration. Dr. Abbott has clearly relied a good deal on secondary sources; but he has so carefully verified and examined his materials, he has applied to them so penetrating and sound a criticism, that his book is distinguished by its accuracy in details. Dr. Abbott stands forth as a conspicuous example of the salvation which lies in precision of thought and exactness of method.

I. ABRAHAM.

DAVIDSON'S "OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY."

Old Testament Prophecy. By the late Prof. A. B. DAVIDSON, D.D., LL.D., Litt.D. Edited by Prof. J. A. PATTERSON, D.D. (Edinburgh, T. & T. Clark, 10s. 6d., 1903.)

"OLD Testament Prophecy," writes Prof. Patterson in his course of a sympathetic Preface, "was Dr. Davidson's favourite study, and the final results of forty years' strenuous thinking on this profoundly interesting subject are contained in the present volume. The very first winter he was professor, Dr. Davidson gave several lectures on Prophecy, and he was still busy with the same subject when, in the end of January, 1902, his work was suddenly ended by death." In common with Robertson Smith he was responsible for the great change that has come over the attitude of the churches in Scotland

towards Biblical Science, and his sphere of influence, as many have cause to know, was by no means confined to the students who had the privilege of coming into personal contact with him in his classes. Truly the late Professor of Hebrew at New College, Edinburgh, was a great power in Hebrew studies, and every one will cordially agree that it was a happy idea to present to a larger circle of readers the fruit of so many years of study. His elaborate article on "Prophecy," in Hastings' *Dictionary of the Bible*, was an admirable piece of conciseness, and many will undoubtedly be glad to turn to the mass of material which is here set forth, naturally with greater fullness.

The aim of the volume is to trace the rise and fall of Hebrew prophecy, to present and explain its successive phases, and to analyse its more characteristic features. Dr. Davidson's particular standpoint will be familiar to others apart from those who know the article above referred to. Although he was not quick to accept and assimilate new ideas, his attitude was one of independence and earnestness. He ignored all that did not appear to be helpful, whilst whatever seemed to him to contain truth was gradually taken in and adjusted to his own general standpoint, to be enunciated in his own characteristic manner. Accordingly, the reader fresh from higher critical studies will be struck by the writer's exceedingly moderate point of view; he will, however, find that the book is none the less fresh and suggestive, and being written in a popular style, with careful avoidance of technical language, it is a work with which all students will do well to acquaint themselves. The personality of the writer and his far-reaching influence in the past give these lectures a peculiar interest which a careful study of them only enhances.

S. A. COOK.

THE OXFORD GESENIUS.

A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament with an Appendix containing the Biblical Aramaic. Based on the Lexicon of William Gesenius. Part XI. By FRANCIS BROWN, D.D., with the co-operation of S. R. DRIVER, D.D., and CHARLES A. BRIGGS, D.D. (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 2s. 6d., 1904.)

THIS great work, which for brevity's sake we may (with the *Encyclopaedia Biblica*) designate BDB, issued its first part in 1892 and has now reached שָׁכַר. As every Hebrew student knows, it is accurate, complete, and admirably full in every way; the three great names which appear on the title-page are a proof of its scholarship,